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Appln. Serial No. 09/836,952
Amendment dated September 4, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed June 1, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. 1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
 2. assigning information stored on a computer a plurality of clearance levels;
 3. assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges a corresponding one of the clearance levels;
 4. using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined boundary;
 7. identifying a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned to the smart badges within the boundary; and
 9. providing access to that sub-set of the information having a clearance level no higher than 10. the lowest identified clearance level.
1. 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 2. defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges; and
 3. updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility 4. status.
1. 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 2. recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge 3. visibility status.
1. 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 2. recording the smart badge visibility status of each smart badge within an activity log.
1. 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing includes:
 2. providing access to smart badge wearers assigned to the smart badges.

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- 1 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
2 preventing access to the information when the smart badge visibility status is set to
3 invisible for a predetermined timeout.

- 1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 writing data items to the smart badges.

- 1 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
2 pre-reading the data items from the smart badges during idle periods.

- 1 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge has been
3 continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

- 1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and
3 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration period
4 has been exceeded.

- 1 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the using element includes:
2 configuring the predefined boundary by varying a sensitivity level of the wireless beacon.

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1 12. (Currently Amended) A method for context-aware computer management comprising:
2 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
3 assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges a corresponding one of the
4 clearance levels;
5 using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined
6 physical boundary;
7 identifying a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned to the
8 smart badges within the boundary;
9 providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance level no
10 higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the predefined
11 physical boundary;
12 defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges;
13 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility
14 status; and
15 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
16 visibility status.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying computer program code
2 [[for]] that when executed by a computer causes performance of context-aware computer
3 management, comprising:
4 assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
5 assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges a corresponding one of the
6 clearance levels;
7 using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined
8 physical boundary;
9 identifying a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned to the
10 smart badges within the boundary; and
11 providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance level no
12 higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the predefined
13 physical boundary.

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1 14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further comprising comprises:
3 defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges; and
4 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility
5 status.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further comprising comprises:
3 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
4 visibility status.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein providing
2 includes:
3 providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to the
4 smart badges.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further comprising comprises:
3 preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to invisible
4 for a predetermined timeout.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the
2 context-aware computer management further comprising comprises:
3 defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge has been
4 continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

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- 1 19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the
- 2 context-aware computer management further comprising comprises:
- 3 assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and
- 4 de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration period
- 5 has been exceeded.

- 1 20. (Currently Amended) A system for context-aware computer management comprising:
2 means for assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;
3 means for assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges a corresponding one
4 of the clearance levels;
5 means for using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a
6 predefined physical boundary;
7 means for identifying a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned
8 to the smart badges within the boundary;
9 means for providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance
10 level no higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the
11 predefined physical boundary;
12 means for defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart
13 badges;
14 means for updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge
15 visibility status; and
16 means for recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart
17 badge visibility status.

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- 1 21. (Currently Amended) A system for context-aware computer management comprising:
 - 2 a database, including information differentiated by a plurality of clearance levels;
 - 3 a first wireless beacon;
 - 4 a set of smart badges, detected by the first wireless beacon to be within a predefined
 - 5 boundary, each badge assigned a corresponding one of the clearance levels;
 - 6 a computer located within the boundary;
 - 7 a system service module, coupled to the first wireless beacon, for identifying a lowest
 - 8 clearance level from among the clearance levels assigned to the smart badges within the
 - 9 boundary; and
- 10 a software application, coupled to the system service module and the database, for
- 11 providing access to that sub-set of the information within the database having a clearance level
- 12 no higher than the lowest identified clearance level on the computer.
- 1 22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the first beacon includes:
 - 2 a wide angle RF beacon.
- 1 23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising:
 - 2 a second diffuse IR beacon, coupled to the service module, limited to detecting smart
 - 3 badges within the predefined boundary.
- 1 24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the smart badges include:
 - 2 biometric sensors for detecting when a smart badge has been removed from an assigned
 - 3 smart badge wearer.
- 1 25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the service module
2 defines those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges, and
3 recalculates the lowest clearance level in response to a change in a visibility status.
- 1 26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the application logs smart badge
2 wearers assigned to visible smart badges onto the computer.

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1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to the sub-set
2 of information comprises providing access to the sub-set of information stored on the computer
3 located within the predefined boundary.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless beacon comprises a
2 first wireless beacon to communicate with the smart badges, the method further comprising:
3 using a second wireless beacon to communicate with the smart badges,
4 wherein detecting which smart badges are located within the predefined boundary is
5 based on the first and second wireless beacons.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein using the second wireless
2 beacon comprises using the second wireless beacon to communicate with smart badges within
3 the predefined boundary and to communicate with smart badges outside the predefined boundary
4 through one or more blocking objects defining the predefined boundary, and
5 using the first wireless beacon comprises using the first wireless beacon to communicate
6 with smart badges within the predefined boundary, wherein the first wireless beacon is blocked
7 from communicating with smart badges outside the predefined boundary by the one or more
8 blocking objects.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein using the first wireless beacon
2 comprises using an infrared beacon, and wherein using the second wireless beacon comprises
3 using a radio frequency beacon.

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- 1 31. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a A computer-readable medium containing
- 2 program code that when executed cause a computer to:
 - 3 store plural sub-sets of information, each sub-set of information associated with one of
 - 4 plural clearance levels;
 - 5 use at least a first wireless beacon to communicate with plural badges within a predefined
 - 6 region, each of the plural badges associated with one of the plural clearance levels;
 - 7 determine a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels associated with the
 - 8 badges in the predefined region; and
 - 9 provide access to one or more sub-sets of the information having one or more respective
 - 10 clearance levels no higher than the determined lowest clearance level.
- 1 32. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein
- 2 providing access to the one or more sub-sets of the information comprises displaying the one or
- 3 more sub-sets of the information having the one or more respective clearance levels no higher
- 4 than the determined lowest clearance level.
- 1 33. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the
- 2 program code when executed cause the computer to further:
 - 3 use a second wireless beacon to communicate with the plural badges in the predefined
 - 4 region and to communicate with one or more badges outside the predefined region,
 - 5 wherein the first wireless beacon is able to communicate with the plural badges within
 - 6 the predefined region but is unable to communicate with the one or more badges outside the
 - 7 predefined region; and
 - 8 determining the badges that are within the predefined region based on the first and second
 - 9 wireless beacons.
- 1 34. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the
- 2 program code when executed cause the computer to further:
 - 3 receive a parameter from each of the badges, the parameter indicating a confidence level
 - 4 that the respective badge has been worn continuously by a user.

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1 35. (Currently Amended) The article computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the
2 program code when executed cause the computer to further:

3 re-determine the lowest clearance level as badges enter or leave the predefined region.

1 36. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

2 storage to store sub-sets of information associated with corresponding plural clearance
3 levels;

4 a first wireless beacon to communicate wirelessly with badges within a predefined
5 region, each of the badges associated with one of the plural clearance levels;

6 a module to identify a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels of the
7 badges within the predefined region; and

8 software to provide access to one or more sub-sets of information in the storage having
9 one or more clearance levels no higher than the identified lowest clearance level.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, further comprising:

2 a second wireless beacon to communicate wirelessly with badges within the predefined
3 region and at least one badge outside the predefined region,

4 wherein the first wireless beacon is unable to communicate with the at least one badge
5 outside the predefined region,

6 the module to detect the badges that are within the predefined region based on the first
7 and second wireless beacons.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the second wireless beacon
2 comprises a radio frequency beacon, and the first wireless beacon comprises an infrared beacon.